

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: July 30, 2003

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-110)

TO: Gerald McClintock
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager, KEWU-4

Proposed Action: Pahsimeroi Holistic Restoration – Gydesen/Hayes Riparian Enhancement and Irrigation Improvement Project

Project No: 2002-063-00

Wildlife Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS): 4.10 Water Conveyance: Pipeline, 4.2 Water Measuring Devices, 6.5 Water Supply: Pipeline

Location: Custer County, Idaho

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Custer Soil and Water Conservation District (CSWCD)

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to fund a riparian enhancement and irrigation improvement project with the Custer Soil and Water Conservation District in Custer County, Idaho. The proposed project is located on private land and will include the installation of approximately 4,300 feet of 18-inch pipe that will replace two open ditches on the property. This project will eliminate about two miles of open ditch and eliminate the associated water conveyance losses in these ditches, which will allow for more water instream in the Pahsimeroi River.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Karma Bragg with the Custer Soil and Water Conservation District (July 28, 2003) and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species that may occur in the general vicinity of the project area are gray wolf, Canada lynx, bald eagle, Ute ladies'-tresses, chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout. Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, BPA determined that the proposed actions would have no effect on any ESA listed species. The area proposed for disturbance is a cultivated field that is currently in hay production. Current land management and agricultural practices do not lend the site to the presence of Ute ladies'-tresses. All activities will take place in the dry, behind lockable headgates, and therefore no impacts to aquatic species are anticipated. In addition, noise and human presence associated with the pipeline installation will not exceed the existing levels on the site from ongoing agricultural activities.

In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, a cultural and historic resource review of this project was completed by Mr. Marc Munch with the Boise National Forest

Heritage Program. Based on his review of the site and the proposed activities, Mr. Munch concluded that no further cultural resource consultation would be required. BPA concurred with these findings and determined that the proposed activities would have no effect on cultural and/or historic resources. In the unlikely event that archaeological material is encountered during project construction, a qualified archaeologist should be notified and work halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed.

Standard water-quality protection procedures and Best Management Practices will be followed during the implementation of this project. No construction is authorized to begin until the proponent has obtained all applicable local, state, and federal permits and approvals.

Public involvement has taken place as part of the Gydesen/Hayes Project. The project has been coordinated through the Upper Salmon Basin Technical Team composed of numerous technical representatives, including U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA Fisheries, the Shoshone/ Bannock Tribe, and Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Technical Team meetings are held monthly and are open to the public. Landowners on either side of the project have been consulted with. In addition, this project has been discussed at the Custer Soil and Water Conservation District's monthly meetings.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with Section 7.6A.2, 7.6B.3, & 7.8E.1, of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. This Supplement Analysis finds 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD, and, 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Shannon C. Stewart 7-31-2003

Shannon C. Stewart
Environmental Specialist

CONCUR:

/s/ Kathy Pierce for

Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 7-31-2003

Attachments:

NEPA Compliance Checklist
Cultural Resource Project Review, Boise National Forest July 22, 2002

cc: (w/ attachments)

Ms. Karma Bragg – Custer Soil and Water Conservation District